

REGIONAL DEMOCRATIC WHIP

COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

CHAIR, COMMERCE, TRADE  
AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND THE INTERNET

CO-CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY  
CAUCUS



**BOBBY L. RUSH**  
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
1<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT, ILLINOIS  
WEBSITE: <http://www.house.gov/rush>

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2416 RAYBURN HOB  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-4372  
(202) 226-0333 (FAX)

CHICAGO OFFICE:  
700-706 E. 79TH STREET  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60619  
(773) 224-6500  
(773) 224-9624 (FAX)

MIDLOTHIAN OFFICE:  
3235 WEST 147TH STREET  
MIDLOTHIAN, ILLINOIS 60445  
(708) 385-9550  
(708) 385-3860 (FAX)

April 27, 2009

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.  
Attorney General of the United States  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20530

**VIA FACSIMILE**

Dear Attorney General Holder:

I am writing regarding a matter of grave concern to me and the over 11,000 citizens of my congressional district in the Village of Crestwood. On April 18, 2009, I first learned through media reports that Crestwood residents have been exposed to drinking water contaminated with perchloroethylene (PCE), a chemical linked to cancer, liver damage and neurological problems. The source of the water is a well operated by the Village of Crestwood. As a result of the recent publicity, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and the Illinois Attorney General have initiated investigations.

On April 20, 2009, I transmitted a letter to United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Administrator Lisa Jackson setting forth my outrage that over the past 20 years, more than 51 million gallons of poisonous water per year has been distributed to Crestwood residents. I further requested from the USEPA a full report on the status of enforcement procedures and obligations in this instance under the Safe Drinking Water Act, whereby municipalities are required to verify the safety of local drinking water under Section 114 of P.L. 104-182, and a meeting with USEPA officials has been tentatively scheduled for this week.

On Saturday, April 25, 2009, I spoke to several hundred concerned Crestwood residents at a meeting organized by the citizen whose diligence exposed the situation in that community after her son suffered leukemia and her daughter developed a brain tumor while there. I informed these citizens that I would not only pursue investigation and redress through the USEPA, but also, seek the assistance of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to ensure that the responsible parties in this case are indeed held accountable. Therefore, I am specifically requesting that the DOJ conduct a formal, full-fledged investigation in order to determine any civil or criminal

violations on the part of the Village of Crestwood, or other parties which may have knowingly supplied residents with contaminated water after informing them that the water supply was safe.

I am also requesting participation by DOJ officials, along with USEPA officials, in a town hall meeting about the Crestwood water issue that I will conduct in the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District on Saturday, May 9, 2009. Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact my Legislative Director, Christopher Brown, at (202)225-4372 or [cmbrown@mail.house.gov](mailto:cmbrown@mail.house.gov).

I thank you for your time and attention, and I look forward to your response to my requests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bobby Rush", with a stylized, cursive script.

Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

cc: Hon. Lisa Jackson, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Hon. John Conyers, Chairman, House Judiciary Committee